

The Brooklyn Paper

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RUSSIAN ROULETTE

Amid tension, Nets tsar could pack up team office for Moscow

By Megan Riesz

The Brooklyn Paper

Call them the Moscow Nets.

Brooklyn Nets owner and Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov is looking to pass the basketball team's corporate offices back to his mother country, apparently out of fear that a second Iron Curtain is descending as a result of Russia's contentious military maneuvering in Ukraine. In his announcement, Prokhorov vowed that the unusual fast-break would be totally above-board.

"A Russian company will own the basketball club," Prokhorov told reporters on Monday, according to the wire news service Reuters. "This (move)



Control of Brooklyn's home team might be moving far from Downtown's MetroTech Center.

does not violate any NBA rules and I will bring it (under Russian jurisdiction) in accordance with Russian law."

He did not mention it, but the plutocrat's proclamation came the same day Russia was suspended from the Group of Eight, a Western conference of industrialized countries that includes the United States, and the U.S. slapped Russian president Vladimir Putin's inner circle of officials and oligarchs with economic sanctions. The boxing-out was a response to Russia's zone offensive on Crimea, a region of Ukraine that once belonged to Russia. Western leaders said the power play was way out of bounds.

Prokhorov lost the 2012

Russian presidential election to Putin and the hoops mogul's Moscow mayoral bid was thwarted last summer by a new law forbidding political candidates from owning real estate abroad. In addition to a 45 percent stake in the Barclays Center, Prokhorov reportedly owns an island in Africa's Seychelles, and a chalet in the Alps, where French authorities accused him of flying in prostitutes to ring in the Russian Orthodox New Year in 2007. Those charges were later dropped.

The National Basketball Association has not received an application for the buzzer-beating ownership transfer of the Nets, according to a spokesman. See **NETS** on page 3



Jacinda Motton of Crown Heights spent her Saturday painting murals for Love Brooklyn Day.

Kings, for a day

'Love Brooklyn Day' brings out volunteers accross the borough

By Matthew Perlman

The Brooklyn Paper

Do-gooders fanned out across Brooklyn this weekend to lend a hand to projects at local schools, libraries, and community centers as part of a borough-wide volunteer initiative.

The occasion was an event called Love Brooklyn Day, which we at The Brooklyn Paper celebrate every day, but which the volunteer group New York Cares kicked

up a notch with work initiatives at nine locations around the borough on Saturday.

The event is not to be confused with Brooklyn Day, or, as the bean counters in Albany refer to it, Brooklyn-Queens Day, which takes place the first Thursday of June each year, officially to celebrate the anniversary of the organization of church Sunday schools, but in practice to give the borough of Kings its due. First-time See **LOVE** on page 15



Prognosis negative

LICH advocates slam Related, Fortis overhaul plans

By Megan Riesz

The Brooklyn Paper

Activists against closing Long Island College Hospital do not agree on who should take over, but they know exactly who they don't want —

NEW BID GUIDE
SEE PAGE 8

developers who would replace the hospital with a few doctor's offices.

Hundreds of hospital employees, union reps, and Cobble Hill residents flooded the Saint Francis College Auditorium on Tuesday night to hear about the nine redevelopment proposals for the hospital, which

will close in May if no one steps up to keep it running when state managers walk away. Audience members were reserved about which of the four hospital-included overhaul plans they agreed See **LICH** on page 14



HOSPITALS IN CRISIS

MADE IN BROOKLYN, 2014: A LOOK AT BORO'S INDUSTRIAL REVIVAL

Cooking up new biz

Food incubators bring heat to Industry City

By Max Jaeger

The Brooklyn Paper

The low-cost space available in Sunset Park's Industry City is prompting a boom in a new business model — the time-share kitchen.

The sprawling industrial park on the site of the old Bush Terminal offers big, raw spaces to its tenants — sometimes more than they need — and as a result some culinary start-ups are becoming de facto incubators for other aspiring chefs.

"Being in this big industrial space, we felt like the only limitations were budget," said Yonatan Israel, who owns Colson Patisserie.



Oleg Dobrzhamkiy of Regal Vegan sautes some onions while a worker from a separate company boils chicken.

room, but the space was too much of a deal to pass up, so he sublets to three other food-makers.

For Israel, it was important to find the right people to share his space, but another Industry City kitchen a few blocks away is opening its doors to anybody with a spatula and a dream.

Hana Kitchen rents space to new food-makers who do not have the capital to build their own kitchens, said Nicole Bermensolo, a partner in the venture who uses the facility to make gluten-free desserts for her company Kyotofu.

She and business partner Michael Hu shared the vast space — about the size of four tennis courts — about the size of four tennis courts. See **FOOD** on page 14



Ginger ale impresario Bruce Cost shows us the goods in his new Williamsburg factory.

Taking root in Williamsburg

Ginger ale factory growing

By Danielle Furfaro

The Brooklyn Paper

The industrial area around Williamsburg's Morgan Avenue L station is about to get a little more bubbly.

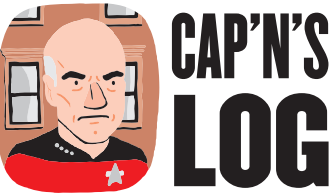
A small-scale, neighborhood ginger-ale manufacturer is moving into bigger digs with plans to ramp up production of its spicy beverage, the base ingredient of which its owner says has serious mass appeal.

"Mankind has an affinity for the herb all over the world," said Bruce Cost, owner of Bruce Cost

BORO'S STICKY PAST & PRESENT
SEE PAGE 6

Ginger Ale.

Cost started making the ginger ale in the 1980s, when he was an exiled New Yorker running a Chinese and Southeast Asian restaurant in San Francisco called Monsoon. He came up with his version of the drink during a dinner featuring traditional See **ALE** on page 6



STARDATE: -308781.8316844241
Wonder Wheeeeee!
— twitter.com/SirPatStew

In this episode, our heroic Captain, Sir Patrick Stewart — a resident of Park Slope who famously played Jean-Luc Picard on "Star Trek: The Next Generation" — explores the distant reaches of the Coney Quadrant and becomes trapped with first officer Sir Ian McKellen inside a steel cage affixed to a strange, rotating contraption.

On the next episode: whatever Sir Patrick Stewart tweets about.



Old-movie buff Ken Gordon runs a silent-film series at the Central Library.

As his piano gently weeps

Silent-film buff brings old celluloid to life at library

By Matthew Perlman

The Brooklyn Paper

His is a very quiet labor of love.

A Midwood man has spent the past 17 years bringing silent films to life through free screenings. If you watch the flicks closely enough, you can hear a lot, the film buff says.

"Silent films have incredibly loud voices," said Ken Gordon, who curates a twice-annual silent-film series at the Central Library. "I want these films to be seen."

Gordon first began organizing silent-

film screenings in 1997 at the Brooklyn Museum. A few years later, he moved the shows to the library, where he now runs series in the spring and fall. He said it is important to preserve the movies and to introduce them to new audiences.

"They're all timeless," said Gordon. "They tell our story. They're about human beings."

He also loves the idea of hosting cultural events in his home borough, because he remembers growing up when finding "the arts" meant trekking across

the East River.

"We always schlepped into Manhattan to get our culture," Gordon said. "I wanted to give Brooklynites an excuse to not have to go."

Many of the screenings are accompanied by a live pianist who plays along with the film. This, Gordon said, is like an art in itself. The musician has to create the right mood for every scene without overshadowing the visual experience. And finding these movie maestros is no easy task.

See **PIANO** on page 13

Beep on cars, roller coasters, and council

Adams vociferous on Coney, mum on his non-profit

Borough President Adams has been in office for nearly three months and we checked in to see how he is holding up. He was more than happy to give his take on the city's so-called "Slow Zones," which reduce neighborhood speed limits to 20, and the Thunderbolt, Coney Island's first new roller coaster since 1927 — no way is he getting on that thing. But when the conversation turned to recent reports by the New York Post stat-

ing the city is investigating him after an aide allegedly solicited funds at Borough Hall for a group called One Brooklyn, which does not officially exist, Adams suggested we talk it over with his attorney.

ing the city is investigating him after an aide allegedly solicited funds at Borough Hall for a group called One Brooklyn, which does not officially exist, Adams suggested we talk it over with his attorney.



Adams on Line 1

Here is the full discussion. Bill Egbert: What do you think of the push for slow zones in neighborhoods like Park Slope, Fort Greene, and Greenpoint?

Eric Adams: If you were to go back a few years, I pushed the 20-miles-per-hour limit. See **ADAMS** on page 8

Court Street grocer Giuseppe Caputo dies at 83

By Megan Riesz

The Brooklyn Paper

Caputo's Fine Foods owner Giuseppe Caputo passed away on Friday, his son confirmed.

The beloved food-maker and grocer was 83. The loss left his son momentarily speechless.

"I don't know what to say. I'm blank," said Frank Caputo, who would

not divulge how his father died.

The late Caputo emigrated from Mola di Bari, Italy in 1972. He founded the gourmet shop on Court Street the following year with his wife, who died in 2007. He was renowned for making fresh blocks of mozzarella and pasta in the store and treating his customers like family, according to an owner of a neighboring Italian eatery.

"He was a good man — nice, very friendly," said Joe Chirico, proprietor of Marco Polo Ristorante, which opened two blocks away from Caputo's one year after Caputo's. "He was a very good chef."

Making mozzarella was Caputo's passion, his son said.

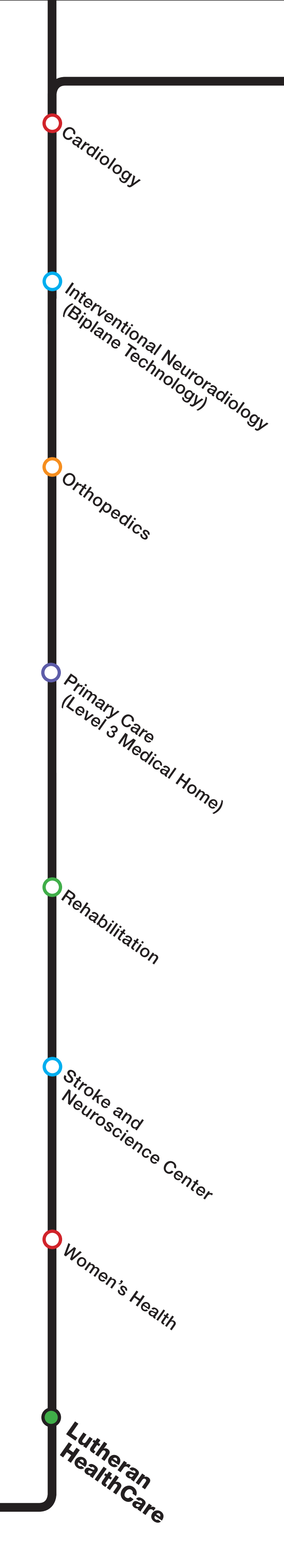
The store Caputo's offers an array of oil-soaked breads, thick-cut meats, cheeses, and other mouth-watering Italian delicacies. The shop was born when Caputo became fed up with working for other people and decided to buy the Court Street building, his son told the food blog Nona Brooklyn in 2011. Caputo and his wife started off selling only six types of cheese, a few varieties of olives, and cans of tomatoes. Then came the cold cuts and pasta, and the following that has made the store a neighborhood mainstay.

The regular customers lit up his days, his son said. "He loved the people that came in," Frank Caputo said. The shop briefly closed for Caputo's wake on Sunday, but reopened on Wednesday with Frank Caputo at the helm.

Caputo is survived by Frank and his other son, Vito.



Frank Caputo is running the store without his father.



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BROOKLYN NETS COVERAGE

Plumlee tops expectations

FRONT COURT

By Tom Lafe

The Nets have found a winning formula playing in the absence of two of the team's biggest frontcourt names in Brook Lopez and Kevin Garnett.

Even though this half of the Frontcourt vs. Backcourt column would like to be able to point to the Nets' big men for their in-season turnaround, it is clear that small-ball is working for this team.

However, an unlikely name has stepped up and played some of the biggest minutes: Mason Plumlee.

At the beginning of the season, it didn't seem as if there was even a spot on the bench for Plumlee.

Playing behind Lopez, Garnett, Blatche, and Evans, it look like Plumlee was headed for the NBA's D-League.

But due to key injuries and trades — and crediting Plumlee's play—he has managed to stick with the big boy club, and make a name for himself.

During the last 13 games, Kevin Garnett, the Nets defensive and vocal leader and most important member of the frontcourt corps has been sidelined due to back spasms.

Enter Plumlee.

The first-round, 22nd over-



Mason Plumlee has stepped up for the Nets this season.

all pick from Duke was inserted into the starting lineup and the Nets haven't missed a beat, going 10–3 during that stretch.

In his role as a starter, Plumlee has averaged eight points per game on 63-percent shooting, 5.7 rebounds, 1.3 assists and one steal. And the majority of his points have come from inside the paint, proving he can finish from un-

der the rim—which is exactly what any coach wants to see out of its young big men.

It goes without saying that there is room for growth with Plumlee, but he's given coach Kidd and general manager Billy Knight more than they could every expected when they selected him last June.

And while it is still Kevin Garnett's frontcourt, it isn't clear when he will return. The

Nets hope he does before the first round of the playoffs. But if that doesn't happen, management should be confident with the young man standing behind him.

Tom Lafe is a 6-foot-5 sports-world insider with a middling high school basketball career who believes the Nets will be driven by the success of the team's big men.

Backcourt must stop playing like frontcourt

BACK COURT

By Matt Spolar

Brooklyn blew a 22-point, third-quarter lead against the New Orleans Pelicans on Monday Night, and Nets fans may have found themselves fighting off bouts of déjà vu. Time and again, Brooklyn guard Shaun Livingston brought the ball down the floor and immediately began backing down his defender in the post as the rest of the team looked on.

Those familiar with how a point guard normally operates may be confused by the above scenario. Doesn't the point guard start at the top of the key and pass or drive toward the basket to initiate the team's offense?

On most teams, they do. Which raises another question: Is the Nets' backcourt too big for its own good?

To be clear, I am not implying that Deron Williams, at a hefty 6-foot-3, and Livingston, a rangy 6-foot-7, are too slow to keep up with their smaller counterparts across the league. Nor am I saying they aren't nim-



Shawn Livingston and his pals in the backcourt need to focus on the frontcourt when they carry the ball toward the paint, says our columnist.

ble or deft enough to make the plays required of top-level guards.

Far from it.

What I am saying is their size makes it tempting for the Nets to use them in ways

that aren't necessarily in the team's best interest. Livingston's repeated post-up attempts in New Orleans were an extreme example, likely because the Nets were a tired bunch, playing shorthanded

after an overtime game in Dallas the night before. But it was not the first time he and D-Will have begun possessions with their backs to the basket, looking more like Karl Malone than John Stockton.

The novelty of the situation—point guard as big man—might seem like a clever wrinkle for the Nets' small-ball lineup. Without a dominant post player to pass to in the lane, the point guard initiates the offense down low, then kicks the ball out to one of the shooters lined up along the three-point arc.

But Coach Kidd, a legendary point guard himself, should stop his squad from getting carried away with this idea, mainly because it leaves Brooklyn vulnerable to one of its worst vices: a stagnant offense.

The Nets' offense is at its best when the ball is whipping around the floor, and at its worst when four players are standing around watching one. Livingston and Williams may be big for their position, but their size should be used mainly to enhance normal guard play, as they break down defenders in the lane and find teammates cutting to the basket. Now that Brooklyn's backcourt is rolling, it is not time to reinvent the wheel.

Matt Spolar is a nearly 6-foot-1 journalist with a middling high school basketball career who is sure the Nets win thanks to team's top-tier guards.



File photo by Stefano Giovannini



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Freehold Raceway Mall - Quails

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164-08 Jamaica Ave. - Fino
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Phone swipe on G train

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown

An elderly man tried and failed to chase down the young punk who snatched his phone on a G train on March 10, cops said.

The spry victim said he was on a Church Avenue-bound G at 2:58 pm when the rascal, who seemed to be about 15 years old, grabbed his phone and darted out of the train at the Bergen Street station, authorities stated.

The 65-year-old chased the teen out of the Warren Street exit of the station, ran to Court Street and all the way down to Union Street before loosing sight of him, according to a police report.

Tech capital

An opportunistic thief snagged a laptop from the front office of a Dumbo tech company on March 10 while its owner used the bathroom, police said.

The employee told police she left a desk near the entrance to the office on Main Street between Front and Water streets at 12:45 pm and, upon returning from the loo 15 minutes later, found the computer was gone.

Run the jewels

There were two separate jewelry store thefts on March 15 and 16. Here’s how they went down.

A burglar broke into a jewelry store on Fulton Street sometime overnight on

March 15 and stole \$3,000 worth of jewelry equipment but no jewelry, cops said.

Owners said they locked up the store at 7:30 pm on March 15 and, when they opened up at 10 the next morning, they found two closets broken into and the gear gone.

Officers found a bent knife at the scene, and the screws removed from a latch on the back door, they said.

In a separate incident on March 16, police arrested a 39-year-old fellow at another Fulton Street jewelry store when an employee saw him shove earrings, sunglasses, and other merchandise into his coat pockets before walking out the door, according to reports.

An employee said the crook walked into the store between Albee Square and Duffield Street at 1:33 pm and started grabbing the stuff.

When they tried to stop him, he threatened them with a pipe, police said.

Locker raid

A crook broke into a guy’s locker while he exercised at a gym on Livingston Street on March 14, cops said.

The 45-year-old fitness buff said he went to work out at the establishment near Bond Street at 7 pm and, by the time he had finished at 8:45, someone had busted his lock and filched his wallet and watch.

Filchin’ mall

A crook stuffed \$1,209 worth of merchandise from

POLICE BLOTTER

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a Fulton Mall department store into a plastic bag before walking out the door on March 11, according to authorities.

The security guard at the store between Gallatin Place and Hoyt Street said the sticky-fingered so-and-so entered at 10:40 am, and left five minutes later with the goods in a bag from the same store he was ripping off.

Break many 20s

A burglar busted through a Smith Street eatery’s glass door and stole more than \$5,000 from an automated teller machine sometime between March 11 and 12, cops said.

The owners of the restaurant between Warren and Wyckoff streets said the scoundrel broke through the front door and stole \$5,200 between 11:40 pm on March 11 and 6 am the next day.

Unhappy ending

A ruffian attacked an actress for her purse as she tried to enter a residence on State Street on March 9, cops said.

The 66-year-old thespian told cops she was climbing the stairs to the building between Court and Clinton streets at 11 pm when the villain came up from

behind and pulled her back down to the sidewalk. The lout then pushed her to the ground, snatched the purse, and took off down the street, according to cops.

The bag contained keys, an appointment book, credit cards, a Screen Actors Guild union card, and \$60 in cash, the lady said.

Opportunist

A scalawag snatched a man’s wallet from inside an unlocked, parked automobile on Nevins Street on March 14.

The 59-year-old car-owner said he parked his ride between Dean and Pacific streets at 5 am and, when he returned at 5:48 pm the wallet was gone.

Fight back

A would-be robber got more than he bargained for when a Henry Street woman fought him off as he tried to snatch her phone on March 13, police reported.

The lady stated that she was leaving her apartment between Joralemon and State streets at 11 pm when the marauder grabbed her arm and tried to grab her phone out of her hand. She threw him off and he ran away, according to a police report.

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene–Clinton Hill Road rage

A driver got out of his car and hit a delivery guy with a club after a near-crash on Lafayette Avenue on March 22, according to cops.

The 53-year-old delivery man told police he was driving his scooter at the intersection of Carlton Avenue at 7:15 pm, and almost got creamed by a blue four-door sedan.

He and the driver were arguing when the driver jumped out of his car with a club drawn, cops said. The maniacal motorist whacked the unlucky worker with a club, got back in his car, and drove away, police said.

Take in threes

Police are on the hunt for the burglar or burglars responsible for three break-ins at neighborhood businesses this week.

The first happened at a Chinese food restaurant on Fulton Street, overnight on March 17, police said.

The owner reported she locked up the eatery between Saint Felix Street and Fort Greene Place at 11 pm on March 16 and, when she opened the doors at 11 am the next day, she found that the register and bank machine had been busted into. The burglars also took an electronic tablet and an electric bike, according to a report. The owner told authorities it looked like the crook came in through a vent in the ceiling and left through the back door.

The other two break-ins occurred at neighboring eateries on DeKalb Avenue between Ashland Place and Saint Felix Street overnight on March 20, cops reported. Both owners reported they came in to find their back doors unlocked and their registers smashed.

Mean to teens

Police said three bullies robbed a couple of teens of a phone and cash on Adelphi Street on March 20.

The teens recalled that they were standing around between DeKalb and Lafayette avenues at 4 pm, when three bullies in hoodies came over and asked for the time. When the youths hesitated, the brutes forced them to fork over their stuff, police said.

Bad afternoon

Cops cuffed a 39-year-old man who they say tried to rob a guy on Park Avenue on March 22.

The 20-year-old victim told officers he was walking on the sidewalk between Cumberland Street and Carlton Avenue at 1:18 pm when the suspect approached and asked him for money, then demanded it.

“Do you have money? Give me some money,” the villain supposedly said.

The victim refused, and when the galoot started going through his pockets, he told him to stop, authorities said. The ruffian then punched him in the mouth and in the eye, at which time cops showed up and slapped cuffs on the bad guy, according to a report.

Hand-bagged

A sneak snatched a woman’s purse out of her hand while she stood on Fulton Street on March 18, cops said.

The 44-year-old victim related that she was talking on her phone near Hudson Avenue at 3:30 pm when the rapscaillon approached from Rockwell Place, snuck up behind her, and grabbed her Gucci bag. The purse contained money orders, a MetroCard, and an insurance card, police stated.

Bus bust

Cops busted a 53-year-old on Fulton Street who they say lifted a wallet from a woman’s purse on a bus on March 18.

The 47-year-old victim reported she noticed the guy take her wallet while she rode the bus at 5 pm. Cops arrested the suspect when the bus stopped near Flatbush Avenue.

Roaming fees

A goon grabbed a 25-year-old woman’s phone and ran in to a nearby apartment building on Classon Avenue on March 19, cops said.

The lady said she was walking along Classon at 1 pm when the fiend came up from behind near the intersection with Lafayette Ave-

nue, plucked her phone out of her hand, and darted into a building in the nearby Lafayette Houses complex.

Police did not find the guy, according to a police report.

Nab-sack

A quick crook stole a backpack from a doctor’s office on S. Portland Avenue on March 21, police said.

The 40-year-old doctor who keeps an office between Fulton and Lafayette streets told cops she was seeing a patient at 9 am and left the door to her office open. The scoundrel grabbed a backpack containing a laptop, an electronic tablet, and a phone, according to authorities.

Intensive snare

A rapscaillon filched a 62-year-old woman’s pocket-book from inside her DeKalb Avenue hospital room sometime between March 20 and 21, according to a report.

The patient told police she saw the bag in her room between Ashland and Fort Greene places at 10 pm on March 20, and noticed it missing at 2:30 pm the next day. The bag contained her driver’s license, debit and credit cards, and prescription medication, cops said.

— Matthew Perlman

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook Ten-on-one

Cops cuffed five toughs who they say attacked a guy on Hicks Street and West Ninth Street on March 18.

The 25-year-old victim told police he was walking to work around 4:25 pm when he saw a group of 10 scary characters approaching. The unlucky sap immediately turned on his heels, cops said.

“Come here!” one of the goons supposedly growled.

One of the brutes threw a brick at the victim’s chest as another whacked him with a stick, police said. A few other ruffians held the victim down and punched him in the chest, cops reported.

Police arrested five fellows — one 27-year-old, two 20-year-olds, an 18-year-old, and a 19-year-old — and charged them with gang assault.

Hall monitored

Cops cuffed a man who they say attempted to pilfer packages from an apartment on Huntington Street on March 21, cops said.

A witness said he saw the 56-year-old prowler trying to pry open the door of an apartment between Court and Smith streets with a chisel around 3:12 pm and called the police, who found the suspect in possession of a flashlight, a pair of pliers, a screwdriver, and a knife. The guy was charged with burglary.

Test of authority

An elderly man was arrested for trespassing in the Gowanus Industrial Park on March 21, according to police.

A woman said she saw the 67-year-old fellow stroll onto the 46-acre property around 4:10 pm despite giant yellow signs that read, “No trespassing.” Cops say security guards approached the man and asked, “What are you doing here?”

“What are you doing here?” the gentleman supposedly responded.

Cops charged the man with criminal trespassing.

Bagman

Police arrested a man who they say stole from a clothing store on Smith Street on March 22.

A 24-year-old woman reported she saw the supposed shoplifter, 17, stuff stolen stuff into a bag as he left the store between Douglass and Butler streets around 10:55 am. Police arrested the teen and say he had \$301 worth of items with him.

Grease 3

A grease-scalded man was arrested for allegedly beating a woman on Baltic Street on March 12, cops said.

The 33-year-old suspect and 33-year-old woman got into a fight between Hoyt and Bond Streets around 10:20 am, police stated. The brawl got uglier when the guy picked her up and slammed her to the ground, according to a police report. The woman threw hot grease in the supposed assaulter’s face as she tried to get away, according to authorities.



See **BLOTTER** on page 16

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Massive fire in G’point

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A massive fire tore through a Greenpoint newspaper recycling plant overnight last Tuesday night and into Wednesday morning, leaving plumes of acrid smoke hanging over the neighborhood.

The fire at Rapid Processing Recycling Plant, which is on the corner of Humboldt Street and Greenpoint Avenue, started just after 7 pm on Tuesday night.

The blaze drew 169 firefighters from 39 units as it raged through the night, completely destroying the facility.

Firefighters finally got



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

The Rapid Processing plant was completely destroyed by the four-alarm fire.

the inferno under control at 8:49 am on Wednesday, but continued to douse hot spots throughout the day.

Neighbors say they could see — and smell — the conflagration half a mile away.

“It really stunk,” said Greenpoint resident Michael Hoffman.

Hoffman said that neighbors have been encouraging each other to call 311 to ask the city to test for toxins in the ashes of the plant.

“That stuff will stay around for life,” said Hoffman. “We need to know what is in there.”

One firefighter suffered a minor injury while battling the blaze, according to a fire official.

The fire department is still investigating the cause of the conflagration.

ALE...

Continued from page 1

ditional Chinese medicinal dishes. His recipe is a far cry from the syrupy likes of Canada Dry, incorporating chunks of fresh ginger, ginseng, and astragalus, an herb in the pea family.

He made batches at home and continued selling them when he opened a chain of restaurants in the Midwest and found a crowd of new customers thirsty for his product.

“Wherever we were, it would sell,” said Cost. “It could be 30 below in Minnesota and people would order this drink.”

Cost, who also once wrote a book on ginger, moved back to New York in 2010 and set up shop in a dumpling factory in Williamsburg, just a few blocks from his new home.

“We jury-rigged equipment in part of this noodle factory and it grew pretty quickly,” said Cost. “We had to make up the machinery.”

The company now makes a handful of flavors, including original, jasmine, passion fruit, and pomegranate, and the bottles are ubiquitous in fancy New York food stores. Currently, Cost distributes to Whole Foods Market, Fairway Market, and shops in Williamsburg and Downtown. The drink is also a favorite in the Google offices in both Manhattan and Silicon Valley, Cost said.

Before the latest move, the company was making 15,000-25,000 cases of soda

The suds of time

Exploring Brooklyn’s soda-making past

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Bruce Cost Ginger Ale, the small-scale soda manufacturer upgrading its Williamsburg operation, is not the first soft-drink-maker to set up shop in the borough.

Manhattan Special has been making its famous coffee-soda drink on Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint since 1895, when an entrepreneur had the cool idea of developing a cold beverage for espresso-addicted Italians to drink on hot days.

“Italians love their espresso,” said Aurora Passaro, co-owner of the company founded by her ancestor Michael Garuco. “We gave them a new way to drink it.”

Manhattan Specials’ coffee-drink flavors are cappuccino, French hazelnut, and mocha. The sodas also come in cherry, orange, sarsaparilla, vanilla cream, and Italian gassosa (lemon-lime) varieties.

Across town in Cobble Hill, a new business is serving up carbonated beverages the old-fash-



Photo by Jason Speakman

Farmacy employee Justin Rubin serves up a fresh pair of egg creams.

ioned way — at a soda fountain.

Brooklyn Farmacy only opened in 2010, but it harkens back to the days when soda was a drink young Brooklynites nursed at a bar while gabbing with friends and poring over the latest comics.

“We’re celebrating the origin of sodas in soda fountains and pharmacies as a concept that was big in a really great time in Amer-

ica,” said co-owner Peter Freeman.

Only in this day and age, homemade syrups and seltzers like the Farmacy’s are not the norm and the place wears its old-timey vibe as a badge of honor. Server Justin Rubin whips up egg creams wearing newsboy outfits and the Farmacy hosts folk music performances and throwback events such as silent-movie nights and live disc-jockeying — on a phonograph.

per month. The new facility has space to turn out more than 10 times that amount, but Cost says the increase in production will be slow.

Cost said he is excited

to open a new factory in an area of the borough where so many warehouses have been turned into loft apartments and galleries.

“We are employing peo-

ple, and that’s a good thing,” he said. “It is fascinating what has happened to Brooklyn. It is a center of food production and it has been for a long time.”



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A green-thumbs up!

Eco-conscious Carroll Gardens school takes award

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

They let their green flag fly.

The Brooklyn New School celebrated winning an award recognizing its green-thumb education innovations on Monday. The elementary school bagged a Green Flag award from the National Wildlife Federation and eco-minded pupils took full advantage of the opportunity to gab about their planet-cleaning efforts, a school rep said.

“It was great to see the kids talk about the work they do,” said Johanna Esteras, the school’s sustainability coordinator.

Her title goes to show that the school does not treat going green as some extracurricular activity.

“It’s not an add-on — it’s part of our curriculum,” Esteras said.

About 20 proud kids who have built habitats for birds



Brooklyn New School first-grader Kestrel Goldberg Little holds a flowerpot that she made in class.

and looked at ways to improve the fetid Gowanus Canal presented their projects to Councilman Brad Lander (D—Park Slope) and reps from the Department of Education’s Sustainability Initiative. The students all beamed with pride as they flipped through the PowerPoint presentations and gave speeches, according to Esteras.

“The hard work they have been doing has paid off,” she said.

The school has an “eco-action” team that has built up green space and biodiversity on school grounds, reduced lunchroom trash by using pulp trays instead of Styrofoam, and transformed juice pouches and other materials into art projects.

Students, who learn about sustainability starting in kindergarten, also recycle and compost a majority of their cafeteria food waste, the school said.

Activist condemns Purim flag-burning

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A Satmar Hasidic gadfly said an Israeli flag in Williamsburg during a raucous Purim celebration last week does not represent his people.

A journalist caught the action on video and posted it online last Monday. In the clip, a tightly-packed circle of ultra-Orthodox Jewish revelers, some dressed in holiday costumes, chant and dance as a handful of merry-makers ignite the flag and raise it above the crowd and community affairs cops half-heartedly try to push the party back, away from the falling embers. A member of the Satmar sect says his group opposes Israel because a Jewish state does not jibe with the sect’s strict interpretation of the Torah, but that the flag-burnings, which have been happening in Williamsburg for years, reflect poorly on the larger Satmar community.



Ultra-Orthodox Jews burned an Israeli flag in protest during a Williamsburg Purim celebration on March 16.



Simon Weiser

shunned, because they keep to themselves, but they do not have the sanction of any official group, said Weiser.

“There has never been a Satmar rabbi who has permitted or endorsed this action,” he said.

The clip has found its way onto international Jewish news websites and racked up more than 11,000 views in nine days. The video ignited online debates over whether the flag-burnings fall within the bounds of appropriate protest, or even whether Satmar followers should be allowed Israeli citizenship.

Among other beefs with the Israeli government, Satmar members oppose mandatory military conscription.

“We are against Zionism, but we do not believe that this is a tactic that should be done,” said Community Board 1 member and Sat-

mar adherent Simon Weiser. “The people who do this are a fringe of extremist, and they make us all look bad.”

The arsonists will not be

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Signs of life in LICH bidding

Four of the nine new proposals planning to keep hospital a hospital

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

A slate of newcomers to the state’s bidding war over the prime real estate Long Island College Hospital sits on are giving Brooklynites a gasping chance at keeping a hospital on the site.

Four of nine healthcare company–developer partnerships that submitted bids in the latest round of proposals to buy the 155-year-old medical facility from the state call for keeping it a hospital, while the others would turn it into apartment complexes with healthcare components, according to the bids, which were made public over the weekend. Community activists who sued the university for attempting to shutter the hospital have long fought to keep it full service. None have yet endorsed a specific proposal, but having nearly half of the companies in the running agree with the activists’ stated goal is a solid start, one said.

“The four hospital bidders



agree with us that LICH is economically viable,” Cobble Hill Association member Jeff Strabone said. “They indicate the fight we waged.”

Trindade Value Partners, a private-equity firm focused on the production of “highly valued” pharmaceuticals, wants to tear down the current Cobble Hill medical buildings and put in a new, 506-bed teaching hospital—as well as a cancer center and a freestanding ambulatory care center—that would be operated by Healthcare Man-

agement Partners. Company honchos say Brooklyn has a serious shortage of quality hospital care.

“This is an integrated-care delivery system to meet the needs of the Brooklyn community so they have a legitimate, ultra-modern choice for healthcare in Brooklyn,” said Scott Phillips, managing director for Healthcare Management Partners.

A group called the Brooklyn Health Partners wants to build a new 300- to 400-bed hospital and offer ambulatory care, intensive care, and other medical services during construction of the new facility. The company would also build the Brooklyn Medical District, a campus of medical offices, commercial spaces, and market-rate and below-market-rate housing, according to the plan.

Another California-based hospital management corporation, Prime Healthcare Services, wants to re-open 16 of Long Island College Hospital’s closed operating

rooms as part of a hospital that would start off with 100 beds. The company, which operates 25 acute care centers across the nation, would provide surgeries, maternity care, and a host of other inpatient and outpatient services, its plan states. Prime Healthcare lists the State University of New York, which is selling the hospital after fighting for a year to close it, as a client.

The Chinese Community Accountable Care Organization was a bidder in the last round of proposals, which was halted by the lawsuit settlement that reopened bidding and rejiggered the process to favor plans with larger medical components. The organization re-submitted a plan for a full-service hospital that would open with 150 beds and grow to accommodate as many as 250. The plan has the financial backing of former Republican mayoral candidate John Catsimatidis and former deputy mayor Rudy Washington. It

also calls for an emergency room and walk-in ambulatory services.

The State University of New York could choose a plan at an April 3 board meeting, a spokesman said. The hospital will close in May if no company steps up to keep it running, according to the terms of the court settlement.

The basics of the five non-hospital plans are as follows*:

The Cuomo-donor plan

Medical provider: New York University Langone Medical Center and Lutheran Family Health Centers

Developer: L&M Development Partners, Fortis Property Group, Full Spectrum NY, LLC, and KF Brock

Medical facilities: Ambulatory surgery center, cancer center

Housing: Rental units, condos, and townhouses, one quarter of them below-market-rate

Measures to retain jobs: Expected to employ about 200 union workers in non-clinical jobs as well as 26 non-physician employees, all of whom will be members of the New York State Nurses Association or Service Employees International Union 1199

Retail: No

Uses existing buildings: Yes

Time to complete: About one year

Fun facts: Fortis Property Group president Joel Kestenbaum gave Gov. Cuomo’s reelection campaign \$5,000 last

November, while his uncle Moshe—who is not a partner in the firm—gave \$12,500 in Jan. 2014. Cuomo, as The Brooklyn Paper has documented, controls the State University of New York, whose representatives effectively have final say in choosing a buyer for the hospital. The state was considering the Fortis bid alone in December, when university trustees delayed a vote amid cries from hospital advocates to put the brakes on the proceedings until the bidding process was made public and others had a chance to put their hats in the ring.

The developer-only plan

Medical provider: Unknown

Developer: Chetrit Group, FX Fowle

Medical facilities: 100 inpatient beds divided among observation, intensive care, behavioral, and long-term acute care units, as well as an emergency department and community health center

Housing: Apartments, one third of them below-market-rate

Measures to retain jobs: No

Retail: Unclear

Uses existing buildings: Yes

Time to complete: One year

Fun facts: Chetrit Group is one of two developer behind a hot-button, 23-story apartment tower planned for Prospect Lefferts Gardens, as well as the conversion of a former Brooklyn Hospital

Center building in Flatbush into a residential complex where, Brownstoner reports, studios will start at \$1,999 per month.

The finger-on-the-pulse plan

Medical provider: Unknown

Developer: Lana Acquisitions

Medical facilities: Dialysis center, ambulatory surgery center, family planning department, mental health clinic, nursing home, assisted-living facility

Housing: Unclear

Measures to retain jobs: Will hire Long Island College staffers “whenever possible”

Retail: Unclear

Uses existing buildings: Yes

Time to complete: 12 to 18 months

Fun facts: Lana Acquisitions honcho George Weinberger is chairman of the Board of Trustees of New York Community Hospital in Midwood. His partner is Allen Gross, head of GFI Development Company, which describes itself on its website as a “developer that focuses on opportunistic projects in major metropolitan areas.” GFI was behind the notorious so-called “finger building” in Williamsburg.

The call-in-reinforcements plan

Medical provider: Maimonides Medical Center, North Shore—LIJ, Pro-HEALTH

Developer: Peebles Corporation

Medical facilities: Ambulatory surgery center, multi-specialty offices, and off-site health center in Gowanus or Red Hook

Housing: Yes, but no further details

Measures to retain

jobs: \$7.5 million for fund to develop new jobs outside of the hospital

Retail: Unclear

Uses existing buildings: Unclear

Time to complete: Unclear

Fun facts: The Peebles Corporation submitted its previous bid with no medical partner. Company head R. Donahue Peebles penned a self-help book called “The Peebles Path to Real Estate Wealth: How to Make Money in Any Market.”

The other Cuomo-donor plan

Medical provider: The Brooklyn Hospital Center

Developer: Blue Wolf Capital Fund, III, L.P., and Related Companies

Medical facilities: Two off-site health care centers, two urgent care centers

Housing: Some below-market-rate housing

Measures to retain jobs: Would provide preferential hiring to qualified Long Island College Hospital employees for 24 months

Retail: Unclear

Uses existing buildings: Yes

Time to complete: Two to three years

Fun facts: Related Companies founder Stephen Ross gave Gov. Cuomo \$5,000 last year. A company spokeswoman has denied that the money was meant to buy favor for its hospital-gutting plan.

**Editor’s note: Our last guide to Long Island College Hospital redevelopment proposals included the category “Emergency room.” Each of the five non-hospital plans claims to include emergency facilities, but emergency rooms are by definition departments of hospitals, so we have removed the category from consideration.*

Cocktails for park-lovers

Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy thinks young

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Park stewards had some fun inside for a change on Monday night.

On top of coming up with cash, organizers of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy’s annual cocktail party and fund-raiser aimed to bring some new blood in through the doors of the Dumbo venue.

“Our park was founded by community advocates 25 years ago,” said Rachel Fletcher, a spokeswoman for the conservancy. “We’re looking to find people to pick up the baton.”

The event convened the conservancy’s Currents Council, which focusses on attracting young scions and civic activists to get involved with funding and running the sprawling green space beneath Brooklyn Heights.

“We are the young professionals group,” said Hilary Tholen, a Currents member.



Photo by Jason Speakman

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy’s young-people committee hosted its annual shindig at Superfine in Dumbo on March 24.

“It’s the next generation of supporters for the park.”

The mixed-drink sipping action took place at the bar Superfine on Front Street.

About 150 people turned out for the occasion, paying between \$25 and \$40 for admission. A raffle featured prizes donated by local businesses including Las-

sen and Hennigs, Brooklyn Heights Cinema, and Noodle Pudding.

Organizers said bringing people out to a watering hole under the Manhattan Bridge was a good way to keep them thinking about the park during its hibernation phase.

“We wanted to engage

our constituents during the non-park, colder months,” said Tholen. “It was really fun.”

The conservancy funds programming at the waterfront park, provides volunteers to assist with its upkeep, and fishes for donors to help cover the park’s big projects. Its programs include movie screenings, fitness classes, and concerts, as well as fun one-offs like its recent snow-sculpting contest.

State Sen. Daniel Squadron (D–Brooklyn Heights), whose district includes the park, is pushing a bill to skim a fifth of the money raised by posh park conservancies such as the Prospect Park Alliance and redistribute it to green-swards in poor areas that have no such support. But Brooklyn Bridge Park is privately funded and outside the purview of the city’s parks department, so it, and the Conservancy, would not be affected should the law pass.

ADAMS...

Continued from page 1

per-hour idea for places like that. I’m glad to see that people now see that’s possible. Our streets have changed. The ways we use them has changed.

BE: There was some confusion earlier this month at a Borough Hall event about your One Brooklyn charity because it hadn’t been registered yet. Have you finally gotten that paperwork in the mail?

EA: There was no confusion at that meeting. We had 100 business leaders there

who responded to our call to form partnerships with existing organizations to create financial literacy programs throughout the borough. And we are moving straight ahead with that initiative.

BE: But about the One Brooklyn charity you’re organizing, is the paperwork for that moving forward now?

EA: My counsel handles all that, so you’ll need to ask him.

BE: You’ve had a lot of events at Borough Hall since

you took office. What kind of events are coming up?

EA: We have an event coming up at Borough Hall with Police Commissioner Bratton, but the point of these events isn’t just to have events, but to bring people into Borough Hall so they can find out what sorts of services we can offer. We could be celebrating our heritage or honoring women for their contributions to their communities, but the point is to bring people in and then engage them.

I’m a firm believer in the “wax on, wax off” idea from the “Karate Kid” movie. You

get people doing one thing, and it can lead to another, and you have people learning different skills.

BE: With the new Thunderbolt going up, Coney Island will have two roller coasters on your first opening day as Borough President. Are you going to ride the Cyclone or the Thunderbolt first?

EA: I look forward to being a cheerleader for all those who are riding both of those roller coasters, but I’ll be doing it from the ground. I’m not a roller coaster person. I’m not a thrill-seeker. My job is exciting enough.

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Top '90s Brooklyn hip-hop tunes

Brooklyn has always been a fixture of hip-hop lyrics — from 1984's "Do Or Die Bed Stuy" by Divine Sounds to 2009's "Con-ey Island" by Marco Polo and Torae. To celebrate the "'90s Hip Hop and R&B Sing-Along" taking place at Union Hall on March 28, we have picked out some of our favorite borough-centric tracks from the decade.

Jay-Z, "Where I'm From"

Jay-Z lives in a multi-million-dollar apartment in Manhattan these days, but this 1997 track paid tribute to his childhood in Bedford-Stuyvesant's Marcy Houses. The lyrics cover drugs, violence, and prostitution, anchored by the hook, "Cough up a lung, where I'm from, Marcy son, ain't nothing nice. Mentally been many places but I'm Brooklyn's own."

Ol' Dirty Bastard, "Brooklyn Zoo"

The late Ol' Dirty Bastard was a founding member of the Wu-Tang Clan, growing up in Brooklyn with his cousins and fellow hip-hop crew members RZA and GZA. This song appeared on ODB's first solo album in 1995. The track is mostly a tirade against an unnamed nemesis, but the chorus at the end of the song shows some love for his home borough — "Shame on you when you step through to, the Ol' Dirty Bastard, Brooklyn Zoo!"

Notorious B.I.G., "Unbelievable"

One of the kings of '90s hip-hop, Notorious B.I.G. naturally hails from Kings County. His 1994 album "Ready to Die" helped launch a coastal rap war, and includes many autobiographical songs about B.I.G.'s upbringing. "Unbelievable" starts out with this line: "Live from Bedford-Stuyvesant, the livest one. Representing BK to the fullest."

Mos Def, "Brooklyn"

This native son performed in the group Black Star with Talib Kweli in the '90s, but released this gem of a track on his first solo album in 1999. The song is a long love-letter to the borough that bred him, and include references to its Dutch roots, Fulton Mall, and many neighborhoods.

Beastie Boys, "Hello Brooklyn"

Okay, this song technically misses the '90s mark — it came out in 1989. But we had to include a song from the Beasties following the 1980s borough anthem "No Sleep till Brooklyn." "Hello Brooklyn" starts off with a reference to the Leonard Bernstein song "New York, New York" — "New York New York it's a hell of a town. The Bronx is up and I'm Brooklyn down." It ends with a nod to Johnny Cash — "I ride around town cause my ride is fly. I shot a man in Brooklyn just to watch him die."



Jump around

Sing along to '90s rap and R&B classics

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Here's the scenario. On March 28, Union Hall is hosting a night of hip-hop and R&B classics from the 1990s. You can sip on some gin and juice, go insane in the brain, or just kick it — the choice is yours. But you should definitely sing along. "It's sort of like group karaoke," said Michael Austin, who has been hosting sing-alongs of various stripes around the borough for the past five years. "Everyone's singing together, belting out these songs from their childhood." Austin has hosted events at Union Hall, on Union Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, once a month for the last three years. But the "'90s Hip-Hop and R&B Sing-Along" night is one of his favorites, as, in the immortal words of Destiny's Child, the club is jumpin' jumpin'. "It's nonstop jumping up and down, and grinding," he said. "It's way sexier than any other sing-along we do — even sexier than the Prince sing-along." In addition to playing tracks from artists such as Vanilla Ice, Puff Daddy, and House of Pain, Austin and co-host Jerry Mouse also project music videos with lyrics onto a screen so everyone can feel so good. "There's some amazing music videos that people forget about," Austin said. Singers are encouraged to do some big pimpin' and wear their favorite '90s clothing — think ski goggles, Starter jackets,



Party ain't a party: The crowd belts it out at a previous "sing-along" event. (Pictured top) Hosts Michael Austin, left, and Jerry Mouse practise their moves for their "'90s Hip-Hop and R&B Sing-Along" at Union Hall.

MUSIC
"'90s Hip-Hop and R&B Sing-Along" at Union Hall [702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, www.unionhallny.com]. March 28 at 9:30 pm. \$8.

and backwards Cross Colours jeans — or dress like celebrities from that flavorful bygone era. And while the show is not all about the

Benjamins, there are prizes to be won in both a costume contest and dance-off. The bar will also be serving '90s-themed cocktails, with names such as "Motown-philly." Even if you do not fancy yourself as a ghetto superstar, you can still have fun just watching the whole crowd try to keep up with songs such as Busta Rhymes' "Gimme Some More." "It's fun to watch like 200 people trying to rap really fast," said Austin.

Pot pops

Take your kid to work day? Forget about it. Park Slope journalist Tony Dokoupil has penned many articles on drug policy and culture throughout his career — something his childhood left him oddly prepared to do.

Dokoupil's dad is a notorious former drug smuggler known as "Big Tony," who allegedly secreted 50 tons of pot into the US before he was arrested when Dokoupil was 10 year old. Now in his early 30s, the writer has published a memoir about his estranged father, using his investigative skills to piece his dad's past together, and explain his sordid story against the backdrop of South Florida in the 1970s and '80s.

"When I talk about him selling a kilo of Mexican pot to his sister — who was in high school at time — I talk about what it was like to do that in 1971," he said of his new book, "The Last Pirate: A Father, His Son, and the Golden Age of Marijuana," which he will plug at Park Slope's Community Bookstore on April 2. Dokoupil said his father started out as an amateur dealer, but eventually began pulling in six figures moving Mexican and Colombian dope up the East Coast of the United States. When the feds caught Big Tony in the '80s, Dokoupil's parents split, and he severed ties with his dad.

Two decades later, Dokoupil — who is now a senior writer at NBC digital — reconnected with his father for a 2009 Newsweek article titled "My Father the Drug Dealer." The government subsequently released additional case files on Big Tony and his partners, prompting Dokoupil to dig deeper and write "The Last Pirate."

At the Community Bookstore event, Dokoupil will be joined by journalist Bruce Porter (of "Blow" fame) in a discussion about reporting on drug culture — a beat where Dokoupil said his family has actually been an asset. "The legacy that I have was attractive to sources," he said. "The only reason they let me in to see their operations was because they liked where I came from."

Tony Dokoupil at Community Bookstore [143 Seventh Ave. between Carroll Street and Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 783-3075, www.communitybookstore.net]. April 2 at 7 pm. Free. — Max Jaeger

Art blows up

Talk about art that pops! The artists behind Succulent Studios, a new gallery in Greenpoint, are hosting an opening celebration that will feature art made from thousands of balloons.

"The beauty of the balloon is that it creates a childlike response in people. Balloons are so innocent and happy," said the artist known as Sek3, who is one of the organizers of the show. "It really opens people up to other art."

Artists Cern and Addi Sonrekh are collaborating on a massive balloon sculpture that will be exhibited at the opening. Sonrekh will build the sculpture and then Cern will paint it. Sek3 and Cern both came out of the graffiti and street art crew YMI, a group that gained notoriety when it contributed to the artwork in the Graffiti Hall of Fame.

Since then, they have turned to more traditional forms of art. Last year, the pair hosted a pop-up gallery in Miami Beach during Art Basel.

"We have a lineage coming from the birth of graffiti all the way to the collaboration between graffiti and fine art," said Sek3. "We've got a lot of that excitement. It is a rock and roll kind of feel."

The sculptures won't be the only inflatable pieces on display at the launch event — women will also be walking around in bikinis made of tiny balloons.

Balloons will not always be in display at the gallery, but Succulent Studios plans to continue to mine works and performances that are at the intersection of street art and fine art. The organizers said they wanted to highlight this diversity of styles and mediums at the opening, inviting some 30 artists to exhibit their work.

"We want to create a positive experience that is not tied to any particular art scene," said Cern.

Gallery Opening at Succulent Studios (67 West St., Suite 522, between Noble and Milton streets in Greenpoint, succbk.com). March 29 at 6:30 pm. Free. — Danielle Furfaro



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Show and smell!

Annual corpse contest celebrates freaky stuffed animals and storied skeletons

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

You don't have to take a dip in the Gowanus Canal to see some freaky creatures on April 6. Just a few blocks away, geeky event series the Secret Science Club will be hosting its annual "Carnivorous Nights Taxidermy Contest" at the Bell House. Devotees of the macabre can show off their finest stuffed beasts, weird skeletons, and just about anything else that is dead and preserved. The evening is part art show, part storytelling competition, with contestants expected to spin tall and true tales about their beast's backstory in an effort to win prizes. "It's a glorified show-and-tell," said judge Robert Marbury. This is the seventh year the club has put on the event, and previous entries have included both the adorable and the abominable. One piece showed two kittens fighting over a ball of yarn — another was a chandelier made of goat heads, Marbury said. Even the organizers don't know exactly what to expect from this year's batch.



Look at those chompers: Part piranha, part squirrel, this piece of taxidermy is all frightening.

"I sort of think I've seen everything, but then clearly I have not," said co-host Margaret Mittelbach. Participants may enter found, purchased, or homemade taxidermy for a chance to win posterity and preternatural prizes. Judging will be in several categories, including "best in show," "most twisted," and "shock and awe."

Marbury has also added a new category, the "jump the shark award," because he suspects this edition's entrants will take the contest over the top — especially since the Museum of Morbid Anatomy started offering taxidermy lessons nearby. Of course, the limits of taste are subjective. Organizer Dorian Devins

said someone tried to enter a human fetus one year, but the judges wouldn't allow it. Judging is different from typical taxidermy competitions, which grade entrants on categories such as overall craftsmanship, composition, and the difficulty associated with stuffing and mounting a particular species, Marbury explained. "I do none of that," he said. In this contest, a commitment to storytelling is just as important as the taxidermy itself, he said. One previous standout presenter showed off the penguin his dead aunt supposedly bequeathed to him. The burly contestant waxed eloquent about his love for his lost relative, and the presentation ended in a rendition of Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You." It was all an act — but that didn't matter. "He made the whole thing up," Marbury said. "It was great. I love a committed presentation that sort of asks for something from the audience." But based on past winners, the key to success is having a little something extra that expertly walks the line between good and poor taste. One of the best all-time entries was a monkey — bottle opener and brew in hand — riding a coyote that dispensed beer from its penis, Marbury said. "That one didn't need a story," he said. "It was the story." "Carnivorous Nights Taxidermy Contest" at Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues, (718) 643-6510, www.thebellhouseeny.com]. April 6 at 7 pm. \$12 advance, \$15 day of show. Contact secretsclub@gmail.com to register.

Fest busts a move and a gut

'Comedy in Dance' in W'burg features grooving grannies

By Sarah Iannone
for The Brooklyn Paper

Did you hear the one about the dancers who wanted to make their audience laugh? On April 3, Brooklyn comedy-dance collective DNA Comedy will combine both art forms on stage when its members dress up as old ladies in muumuus and dance to Beyoncé's "Grown Woman" as part of Triskelion Arts' annual "Comedy in Dance Festival" in Williamsburg. "We dress like little old ladies but we're very fierce and sexy old ladies, even though we are older," said Downtown resident Denae Hannah, the founder of DNA Comedy. Expect to see choreography from a Beyoncé concert, but reinterpreted for the physical limitations of senior citizens, said Hannah. The performance is meant to make



Muumuu mamas: Brooklyn comedy-dance troupe DNA Comedy will dress like their grandmas and dance to Beyoncé's "Grown Woman" as part of Triskelion Arts' annual "Comedy in Dance Festival" on April 3.

audiences laugh, but it is also a tribute to the older women in the dancers' lives who can still cut a rug. "A lot of us still have elderly women in our families who are still doing it," said Hannah, who has studied both performance and choreography at Florida State University and improv comedy at the Upright Citizens Bri-

gade. Many of the muumuus the dancers will be wearing on stage are also hand-me-downs from their grandmothers and aunts, she added. In addition to the group's grooving grannies, the performance, titled "We Real Grown," was also inspired by dance troupe "the Fly Girls" from '90s sketch comedy series "In Living Color," Hannah explained. "I thought about how the Fly Girls are old now and how it'd be funny if we were actually old. It's like a sort of parody," she said. DNA Comedy is one of 29 companies chosen to perform at this year's festival. One of the organizers said it is difficult to find dancers who can land a joke as well as they can land a pirouette. "Choosing the acts is fun, but very challenging because conveying comedy in writing See DNA on page 12

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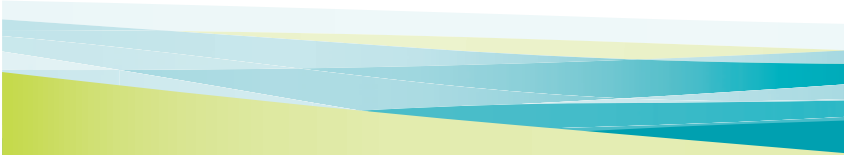
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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 10

666–3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

MUSIC, HURRAY FOR THE RIFF RAFF: \$17 (\$15 in advance). 8:30 pm. Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529–6696], ny.knittingfactory.com.

MUSIC, AMY RAY: \$15–\$20. 8:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebellhouseyny.com.

MUSIC, LUCIFERIN: Free. 9 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 768–0131], www.freddysbar.com.

THURS, APRIL 3

ART, "I WAS HERE," "DIT-TIES": Concurrent solo exhibitions of work by Stephen Paul and Daniel Genova. Free. Noon–6 pm. Giacobetti Paul Gallery [111 Front St. between Washington and Adams streets in Dumbo], giacobettipaul.com.

FILM, "IT": With piano accompaniment from Ben Model. Free. 1:20 pm. St. Francis College [180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 489–5200], www.sfc.edu.

ART, OPENING: Conrad Levenson: Sculpture made from artifacts and reclaimed materials. Free. 5–8 pm. Sculptors Guild Gallery [111 Front St. between Washington and Adams streets in Dumbo, (718) 422–9555], www.sculptorsguild.org.

DANCE, "VECTORS, MARYS, AND SNOW": Brooklyn Ballet presents eclectic dancing, live music, and collaborations as well as a sneak peek from the Brooklyn Nutcracker. \$10–\$25. 6:30 pm. The Actors Fund Arts Center [160 Schermerhorn St. between Smith and Hoyt streets in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 246–0146], brooklynballet.org.

THEATER, "THE ADDAMS FAMILY": A new musical presented by the Xaverian Dramatics club. \$15 at the door (\$10 in advance). 7 pm. Xaverian High School [7100 Shore Rd. at 77th Street in Bay Ridge], www.xaverian.org/dramatics.

COMEDY, "THE EXPERIMENT": Comedian Paul Oddo headlining. \$5. 9 pm. PRB [247 Smith St. at Douglass Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 522–6100], www.peoplesrepublicofbrooklyn.com.

FRI, APRIL 4

TALK, "THE GLOBAL OBAMA": Four experts discuss, "What do people in the United States and around the world really think of President Barack Obama?" Free. 2 pm. St. Francis College [180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn

Heights, (718) 489–5200], www.sfc.edu.

PLAY, "ALL SHOOK UP": High school production based on Shakespeare's comedy "Twelfth Night," using music from the 1950s and Elvis. \$7. 7 pm. St. Edmund Preparatory HS [2474 Ocean Ave. in Marine Park, (718) 743–6100].

MUSIC, FRO: Free. 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636–4100], www.bam.org.

MUSIC, PEPTALK, SINGLE BEN, YOUNG TIDES, POCKET MONSTER: Free. 9 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768–0131], www.freddysbar.com.

SAT, APRIL 5

PROSPECT PARK OPENING DAY: Parade, spring cleaning of the park, family programming, games, activities and exhibits. Pros-

pect Park Audubon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287–3400], www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

TALK, DUMBO WALKING TOUR: Brownstoner blogger "Montrose Morris" will guide participants through Dumbo's fascinating history. \$25 (\$15 members). 11 am. TBA to ticket holders, (718) 222–4111, brooklyn-history.org.

MUSIC, MILEY CYRUS: Bangerz Tour, with Icona Pop and Sky Ferreira: \$64.50–\$94.50. 7:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618–6100], www.barclaycenter.com.

ART, BUSHWICK SCULPTURE GARDEN: Opening with barbecue, planting, and sculpture installation; guests encouraged to bring their own sculptures or shade loving plants. Free. 2–5 pm. Bushwick Sculpture Garden (900 Broadway at Stockton Street in Bushwick), www.the-living-gallery.com.

DNA...

Continued from page 11

is nearly impossible," said Abby Bender, artistic and executive director at Triskelion Arts.

When she saw DNA Comedy's piece, however, there was no doubt in her mind.

"I laughed out loud. It was a shoo-in," said Bender. "I enjoy its sense of playfulness. The performers are getting down. They look ridiculous and the fun is contagious."

"We Real Grown" at Triskelion Arts, Aldous Theater [118 N 11th St., third floor, between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599–3577, www.triskelionarts.org]. April 3 at 8 pm. \$15.

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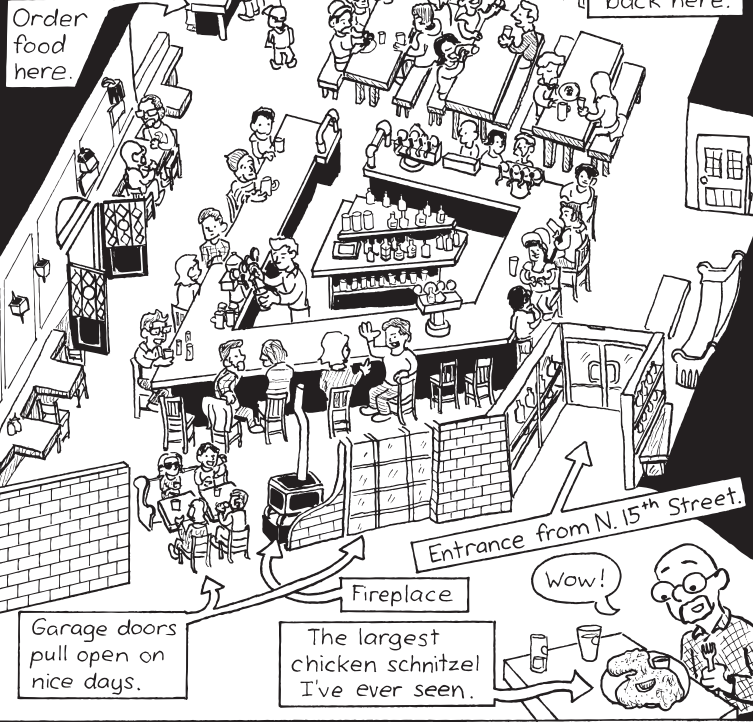
By Bill Roundy

Dirck the Norseman is a new brewpub and beer hall in Greenpoint.

Its 16 taps are mostly German or Belgian-style beers, 7 of them brewed on-site.

Order food here.

Beer tanks back here.



Dirck the Norseman [7 N. 15th St between Franklin and Gen streets in Greenpoint. (718) 389–2940]. Open Mon–Thu, 5 pm–midnight; Fri, 5 pm–2 am; Sat, noon–2 am; Sun, noon–midnight.

BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE - ADVERTISEMENT

Nanatori Japanese restaurant

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

It's worth climbing a few steps for food that is several rungs above typical fare.

Nanatori Japanese restaurant, located on busy Montague Street, sits on the second level of a two-story building. It attracts such a huge lunch crowd from the nearby offices and court houses, that people line up to get inside for a taste of the delicious and reasonably-priced lunch specials.

The focal point of the 56-seat dining room is the sushi work station where diners get to watch the chefs in action. These talented men make the most pleasing and eye-catching sushi and sashimi. One involves a mountain of spicy tuna, stacked high on rice rounds, bathing in a puddle of spicy mayo. Before sending to the table, the tuna is torched by the chef, giving it a crunchiness consistency.

Their creativity continues with formations such as the Sweetie Roll. These rolls also highlight spicy tuna, and they are molded into heart designs. What a catchy way to start dinner with someone special.

If things go well, you might move on to the Sex in the Lobby Roll — shrimp tempura, spicy tuna, white tuna, avocado, and black caviar. There's even a Tuna Martini — diced tuna, cucumber, crunch, seaweed salad, and caviar. Yes, the names are as intriguing as the presentations themselves — colorful, and many delightfully arranged on a white dish so the food is artwork.

If you're dining with the family, there are a few terms that might get their attention, too. For example, kids may delight in the Dinosaur Roll, an artist sculpture featuring shrimp tempura, cucumber, eel, avocado, and caviar.

A unique salad is the Wasabi Lobster. The beautiful arrangement resembles a bird's nest, dotted with mango and red caviar. There's just enough spice to make the dish interesting, without being overwhelming.

For those who like their food cooked, Nanatori Japanese restaurant offers an array of options. The shrimp and vegetable tempura arrives on an oversized white plate, a generous portion. A scoop of brown or white rice accompanies the dish, and with its skillfully arranged sprig of green vegetable there, and red cherry tomato here, it appeals to the eye as much as it does the palate.

The beef Teriyaki makes its appearance on the same oversized dish, sliced and layered over a bed of onion, drizzled with brown gravy. Pieces of broccoli, carrot sticks, and baby corn surround.

Hot tea is served with meals, a welcome addition, especially during these brutal winter months. Or, perhaps a glass of plum wine might warm you up.

The décor of the restaurant is comprised of wood tones and colorful paintings. A large portrait of a Japanese woman among cherry blossoms provides color, as does the fish tank in the back of the dining room. Open shelves display original bottles and other artifacts.

There is seating at the work station, if you want to watch the preparation. There's also seating beneath the huge front window that overlooks Montague Street, if you prefer to see what's going on outside.

Of course dessert is as appealing as the main dishes, and tastes just as good. The banana tempura is a favorite — banana is sliced and fried, then re-ar-



Nanatori Japanese restaurant on Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights. A chef prepares sushi at Nanatori Japanese restaurant in Brooklyn Heights. Sammie Jiang holds the Montague Roll and King Roll. The Sweetie Roll is heart-shaped and perfect to share with someone special.

Photos by Elizabeth Graham

ranged so it sits on a banana peel that's been cleverly draped across the plate. It's all topped with whipped cream and chocolate syrup.

Nanatori Japanese restaurant (162 Montague St. between Clinton and Henry streets in Downtown, www.nanatori.com). Open for lunch Mondays through Fridays, 11:30 am–4 pm; Saturdays, 1–3 pm. Open for dinner, Mondays through Thursdays, 4–10:30 pm; Fridays, 4–11:30 pm; Saturdays, 3–11:30 pm; and Sundays 1–10:30 pm.

DON'T SHOOT!

Cops ban photo-taking at training demo

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Tell, but don't show. That is what the police department said when it barred our photographer from taking pictures of a firearm training simulation demonstration at a community center in a Fort Greene public housing development. Cops at police headquarters refused to explain on what grounds it could ban photography — and even claimed the event that was advertised on a flyer sent to a community activist was not open to the public. “It’s a private event,” said Lt. John Grimple of the department’s public information office, when asked why our photographer was told not to take pictures. How?

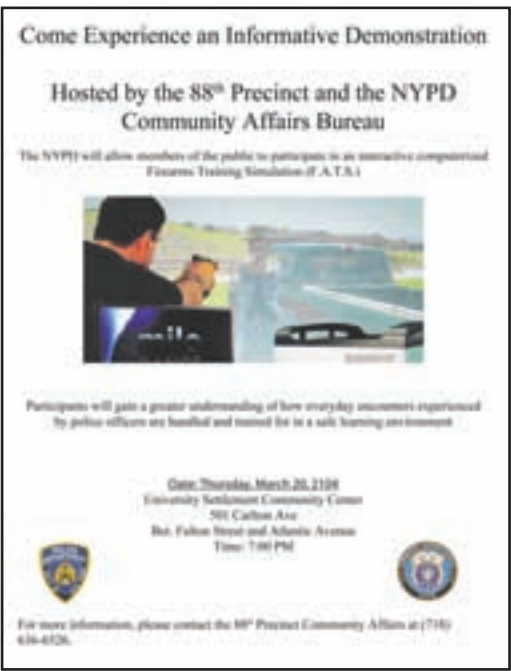
“Because we said it is,” Grimple said. He then hung up.

A follow-up call shed no more light on what danger could possibly be posed by reproducing images of a first-person-shooting video game system that cops asked the public to come take a gander at. An officer at One Police Plaza said that the department simply does not want pictures published of the machine or the officers who use it.

“We don’t know what the risk is so why would we take it?” said Det. Brian Sessa. “That’s an unknown risk. Why would we take an unknown risk?”

The event itself was a fascinating glimpse at the high-tech way that officers are trained about how to handle volatile situations and when it is considered okay to shoot people.

The demonstration took place at the Atlantic Terminal



A police department flyer shows the shoot-em-up video game that top cops told us we could not photograph.

Community Center on Carlton Avenue, between Atlantic Avenue and Fulton Street.

The video-game training system projects a virtual city environment onto a big screen, which trainees face holding fake pistols that are hooked up to pressurized air tanks to make them kick back like real guns. A trainer runs the program, changing the behavior of the people on the screen as the trainees yell commands at them. Det. Joseph Agosto of the police academy led the demo for the audience of about 20. Each of the four scenarios audience members ran through quickly escalated to situa-

tions of kill-or-be-killed.

In the first scenario, volunteers rolled up at a bodega where the owner told him that a shoplifter with a history of violence was holed up in the bathroom. The people playing officer went to check it out and the suspected scoundrel confronted them in the hall and ignored shouts of “Freeze!” and “Put your hands up!”

Finally, the ruffian reached for a knife and lunged for the screen, at which point the players had to pump him full of lead or face a game over.

A traffic stop, a domestic disturbance, and an encounter with a baby-carrying ma-

niac all ended with equally deadly force, but not before the assorted cretins brandished machetes, grabbed guns from one of the players’ pixelated partners, and drove a car over another, and players responded with blasts from a pepper-spray controller and bashes with a motion-sensing billy club.

The simulator tracks the shots fired by trainees and calculates statistics such as accuracy and response rate. Of course, players get points off if they shoot the baby.

After the fireworks, Agosto explained what effects situations like the ones dramatized have on real-life police on the beat. The goal of the exercises is to induce stress in the recruits, causing them to experience physiological reactions similar to those they might feel in a real-life shoot-out, he said.

“It’s stress inoculation,” said Agosto, comparing it to vaccines that build immunity to infectious diseases. “We do something as close to reality as we can.”

Most of the audience came from Atlantic Terminal housing complex, which contains the community center. Many said they appreciated the boys and girls in blue coming out.

“They’re giving people insight about what they’re going through,” said Joshua Hidalgo, who tried out the knife-wielding shoplifter scenario and landed a slug in the perp. “When you’re put on the spot, you don’t know what to say, or what the guy’s going to do.”

Despite the ban on photographs by top cops across the Brooklyn Bridge, officers from the 88th Precinct said the whole idea is to show the world how they operate.

“This gives people a different perspective on what we do,” said Deputy Inspector Scott Henderson, commanding officer of the 88th Precinct.

PIANO...

Continued from page 1

“If you’re successful, you’re almost invisible,” he said. “The really good ones are few and far between.”

Gordon started out as a filmmaker, but soon discovered the work was too grueling for him and that his favorite part was screening the flicks after they were done. Now he makes a living conducting research,

writing, and showing classic cinema.

“I see it as if I’m a chef, and I’m serving people a feast,” he said.

Gordon’s favorite entrees are silent films. He feels that people today are intimidated by the old-school moving pictures because they are so used to more sensory forms of media. But if they give his shows a shot, they might find themselves drawn into

a whole new kind of experience, he said

“Technology is something people become addicted to,” Gordon said. “But if you get past all that stuff, you realize these films are even a little hypnotic.”

The Library of Congress estimates that 11,000 silent films were made in America, most between 1912 and 1929. In a report released last year, it said 70 percent — or 7,700 — of those titles have been lost. Gordon wants to make sure people get to see the ones that survived.

He also wants fans to have a chance to view the mute movies outside the house.

“When we get together in the [Central Library’s] Dweck Center, that space becomes an art-house theater,” Gordon said.

He knows his passion is in danger of extinction, but he hopes to keep the shows going on. More than 120 years is not a bad run for a medium, he pointed out.

“I think it’s kind of a little miracle that we’ve survived for so long,” Gordon said.

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BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE

Sloper walks to find a cure for pancreatic cancer

Park Slope resident Julie Rendelman Spring will join fellow New York tri-state area residents as she supports her mother who is battling pancreatic cancer by participating in The Lustgarten Foundation's fourth annual New York City Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk. The walk will be held on Sunday, April 6, at Clinton Cove in Manhattan's Hudson River Park.

The Lustgarten Foundation is the nation's largest private foundation dedicated to funding pancreatic cancer research. Due to Cablevision's support of The Lustgarten Foundation, 100 percent of every dollar that Julie and her fellow walkers raise will go directly to pancreatic cancer research.

In October 2012, Julie was shocked when her mother Sondra — a healthy, active mother of four, grandmother of five and great grandmother of two children — was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Together, Julie and her mother joined the Foundation's New York City Walk last year for the first time, and they will join together again, along with friends and family, to participate in this year's walk as "Team Pink Ladies Two."

"The incredible passion and determination of Julie and Sondra is shared by the many participants who join with the Foundation to



Julie Rendelman Spring, left, will walk in support of her mother Sondra.

walk each year in support of raising awareness and funding for pancreatic cancer research," said Lustgarten Foundation Executive Director Kerri Kaplan. "We're all walking together in the spirit of unity and hope that with more research, we will find a cure."

The Lustgarten Foundation's New York City Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk at Clinton Cove in Manhattan's Hudson River Park (55th Street and the Hudson River) will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 6, with registration starting at 8:00 a.m. For more information about the walk and to register, please visit www.curePC.org.

LICH...

Continued from page 1

prove of, but they made it clear that they think any plan calling for less than a full-service hospital is not worth the paper it is written on.

"I don't care whether it's Mohammed on the mountain who comes down and offers something less than a hospital — it doesn't meet our needs," said lawyer Jim Walden, who represented six community groups in a lawsuit against the state.

Anti-closure advocates reserved their loudest ire for the Related Companies–Brooklyn Hospital Center plan and the Fortis Property Group–New York University Langone Medical Center plan, both of which involve donors to Gov. Cuomo, Cuomo, as The Brooklyn Paper has documented, controls the State University of New York, whose representatives effectively have final say in choosing a buyer for the hospital.

The Brooklyn Hospital proposal drew jeers because it calls for just two urgent care centers on the site of the Cobble Hill medical center and two walk-in healthcare centers in Red Hook and Gowanus.

The audience collectively



(Above) Long Island College Hospital doctors Tom Sorra and Douglas Sepkowitz spoke on a panel of hospital advocates who are calling for the facility to stay a full-service hospital. (Right) Neighbor Werner Kohn pontificated about how qualified each bidder is to take the hospital over.

groaned as panelists read the outline by Fortis Property Group, which calls for an ambulatory surgery center and a cancer center. One hospital worker and speaker said he met with the company's medical reps and they did not have a basic idea of the medical campus they hope to renovate.

"The medical people had no clue of how many buildings were there and what could actually be done with the place,"



Shanahan. "We don't like any proposals that close the hospital for any amount of time."

Under a new bidding process created by a court settlement that ended a year-long lawsuit over the state's effort to close the hospital without public input, plans will be evaluated based on a point system that weighs medical services as two-thirds of the score and the rest in terms of cash commitments. As part of

the new system, a committee made up of Councilman Carlos Menchaca (D–Red Hook) and reps of the nurses unions and community groups that sued the state will have less than half the say in scoring the medical component of each plan and no weight in weighing the financials.

The State University of New York could choose a plan at an April 3 board meeting, according to a university spokesman.

FOOD...

Continued from page 1

courts—and decided to open it to start-ups, she said.

It costs budding chefs less than \$200 to rent kitchen space for one eight-hour shift at Hana Kitchen. Bermensolo said there are 20–30 tenants renting on a regular basis, including dessert makers, a Japanese salad-dressing company, a tamale producer, and a charcuterie company.

For tenants, the key draw is the equipment.

"As you know, it's not easy to build even a small kitchen," said Gabriel Arvizu, who splits his time between working for Kyotofu and making brownies with a Mexican twist for his own company, Arv Sweets.

Ella Nemcova moved her food business, Regal Vegan, to Hana Kitchen from the Entrepreneur Space in Long Island City three years ago, seeking an easier commute and some equipment that the Queens kitchen didn't offer.

There are plenty of well-stocked commercial kitchens in Brooklyn, but Hana

Kitchen also offers the mentorship and training that one would find at a start-up incubator, without the prohibitive build-out cost and application process, Bermensolo said.

Arvizu said Bermensolo and Hu helped him obtain the licensing and insurance necessary to operate as a business.

"They didn't do it for me, but they put me in the right direction," he said.

The team also advises tenants on packaging, labeling, and how to improve the look of their products, he said.

"There's this under-served population of food-producers that needs guidance on logistics and packaging," Bermensolo said.

That sort of advice can mean the difference between a passion for cooking being an expensive hobby and it becoming a career, according to one newly former tenant.

"They have all kinds of ideas about how to market yourself," said Julia El Bardai, whose company Elba & Ries prepares refriger-



Gabriel Arvizu spends half his time working for Kyotofu and half his time working on his project, Arv Sweets.

ated meals. El Bardai said she and a business partner recently struck out on their own and that starting out at Hana Kitchen helped them hit the ground running.

The mentorship is there, but Hana Kitchen could still do a little more in the way of equipment training, Nemcova said.

"How do you go from working on a four-burner stove to working with some of these huge machines?" she said.

Nemcova said a shift at the Entrepreneur Space included an assistant who helped prep food or work machines for a couple of hours, but that service came at an additional cost — a morning shift at Entrepreneur Space is \$235, while the same shift at Hana Kitchen runs \$180.

Hana Kitchen is a hodgepodge of appliances. There is a bathtub-sized, commercial fryer sitting next to a household electric range. The dishwashing machine is as long

as a shuttle bus, and about as unwieldy.

"That's the dish-washing monster," said Oleg Dobrzanskiy, who works for Nemcova. "When you put something in it that's not very big, it just flies around and makes a lot of noise."

Bermensolo said she and Hu plan to grow the kitchen and hope to create more food incubator spaces in the future.

"There really is a demand out there for kitchen incubators," she said.

They'll soon have some competition, though. The city has received several bidders for a food incubator planned for Crown Heights, according to a spokesman for the city's Economic Development Corporation. The space was originally set to be run by the do-it-yourself giant 3rd Ward, which the city awarded \$1.5-million, but the company folded without warning and the city has refused to say where the money went.

Nemcova said the growth in food production is a boon for the borough.

"To know that industry is alive and well in Brooklyn makes me feel good," she said.

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PARENT

Facing the terms of mom-hood

I am not hurt, I am not hurt. I repeat this over and over to myself on many week-end mornings when I float out to the house at large, “Anyone want to come with me on a walk?”

“No.”

“No thanks.”

“Nope, I’m good.”

One boy, then a second, then a man, all confirming their desire not to hang out with me.

All happily ensconced with technology playing, reading, seeking out information of one kind or another.

I head out the door with the dog, Ginger, my ally, my girl, my companion. Her tail wags, her smile appears beneath her sandy beard. Thank god for Ginger.



Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

with the new normal, where the kids cheer when we say we’re going out, knowing that means they can do as they please without me yammering at them to do what pleases me.

But I’m cool! I swore I would be the fun mom that the kids would like to hang around, that I would totally understand them and their interests and not be the wonky clueless lout lingering to squeeze out a

few words.

Suddenly, I am a wonky clueless lout.

I try to laugh at the things they like on iFunny.com, but they’re not always funny. I fall asleep during shows I try to watch with them if it is past 8 pm.

I wake up in a panic sometimes lately that I’m losing them and that I need to do something quick. But what? Take up paintball?

It happened last week that

they were with friends, each of them on their own personal devices. I was disgusted.

“Why even be together?” I asked. It offended me as much for the moment as for the so many other moments when they chose technology over talking to me.

I told them they had to get off, and they agreed. It was even like they wanted to, but didn’t know what else to play.

“We don’t have enough people to play ‘Hit Man,’” one of their friends said, “unless ... unless *you* play!”

I swear somebody stopped the record player suddenly with a scratch. A mom allowed to play?

I expected my boys to wave off the idea of my

joining them in play, but they looked up at me expectantly.

Okay, here it was. My dream come true. I looked at the book in my hand, at the fire in the fireplace in front of me, and rose up slowly from the beanbag. I recognized a gift horse when I saw one.

“Okay, I’m in,” I said. “What do I do?”

I was Hit Man, it turned out, and my kill was “a bit too obvious.” But I was forgiven.

And it reminded me that sometimes, oftentimes, in the coming years, I’m going to have to jump at the chances I’m given to be with my boys.

And it’s going to be on their terms, not mine.

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LOVE...

Continued from page 1

helpers said the inaugural Love Brooklyn Day got them hooked on pitching in.

“This was my first time volunteering in my community,” said Brandis Peoples, who lives in Bedford-Stuyvesant and helped paint a mural at a local do-good organization with her husband and three children. “Now I’m looking forward to volunteering again.”

Peoples and her family were among the 25 Brooklynites who painted at the offices of Children of Promise, a group that provides activities and counseling for children with parents in prison. Also in attendance was our illustrious arts editor Ruth Brown, who was determined to buck the stereotype of journalists as amoral sociopaths with a few selfless strokes of her brush.

“Just because we try to remain objective doesn’t mean that we can’t do things like this in our spare time to help the community,” she said. “You certainly meet interesting people and you are more likely to find story

ideas if you venture out of your cubicle, rather than sitting around writing smart-a-- tweets.”

Professional artists drew an outline of the mural of kids playing in a park ahead of the event and the volunteers colored between the lines. Brown, whose brush-wielding experiments reinforced her confidence in her choice of careers, stuck mostly to painting the sky, leaving it to others to add in objects and improvise highlights on characters’ clothes. The resulting scene was a sight to behold.

“It popped off the wall,” she said. “It was definitely better than the white wall that was there before.”

A honcho at the organization said the gesture means a lot to the kids.

“The murals will really be impactful for our students,” said Latoya Williams-Belfort, director of development at the facility on MacDonough Street between Tompkins and Marcy avenues. “We want to inspire our children.”

Volunteers had their paint-



Four-year-old Sakura makes a peanut butter sandwich at Saint John’s Bread and Life.

brushes out in Bushwick too, teaching a flower-pot painting class at the DeKalb library branch. The project brought local youngsters to the library in droves.

“The kids are curious,” said Noris Myles, who works at the library. “They want to learn new things,” she said. “They all got really excited for this project.”

Over at Bedford-Stuyvesant’s Saint John’s Bread and

Life, which provides meals to poor people, still more volunteers helped run a healthy snacks workshop for families. Participants made tasty tidbits, including peanut-butter sandwiches.

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BLOTTER...

Continued from page 4

The victim then called the cops, but quickly became uncooperative, police said. Officers arrested the fellow anyway and charged him with assault with intent to cause injury.

That’s random

A woman randomly punched another woman on Third Place on March 17, according to police.

The 25-year-old victim was near Court Street and was looking down at her phone around 3:48 pm when a lady with long, black hair punched her on the left side of the head.

The victim said she followed the criminal and asked, “Why did you hit me? Do you know me?”

“I felt something, that’s why I hit you,” the wild woman supposedly said, then whacked the victim again with a pair of scissors.

— **Megan Riesz**

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge—Dyker Heights

Stiletto stabber

A high-heel-wearing lady and her gang of male goons stomped a guy into the pavement on 75th Street on March 21, according to cops.

The victim reported getting into an argument with the violent femme and her band of brutes at the intersection of Fifth Avenue at 11:10 pm. The dispute came to blows, and the brutes knocked the victim to the ground and began kicking him in the face, dislodging several of his teeth, police reported.

But that was nothing compared to the dental damage the deadly dame did with her spike heels to the man’s face, gouging up his cheeks and knocking out several more molars, police said. The victim sought treatment at Lutheran Medical Center, according to a report.

Apple plucked

A fleet-footed fiend filched a female’s iPhone on 75th Street on March 17 police reported.

The victim told cops she was standing on the sidewalk at Third Avenue with her mobile device in hand at 10:30 pm when the villain ran up and snatched the gadget away.

Up in smoke

Cops collared a man who they say bashed a hookah lounge owner with a water pipe inside a Fifth Avenue

smoke bar on March 23.

The victim said that he got into a verbal altercation with his accused attacker at 6:49 pm at the hangout between 77th and 78th streets, and demanded the man in custody leave. The suspect complied — but then snuck in the back door.

When the business owner tried to block his way, the defendant allegedly grabbed a hookah and smashed it against his arm. The proprietor said that the defendant then grabbed a keyboard and smacked him upside the head with it. Police say they arrived on the scene moments afterward and arrested the accused.

Seeing stars

Two brutes battered a man for his Samsung Galaxy phone on 62nd Street on March 23, authorities reported.

The victim told police he was near 12th Avenue at 3:05 pm on his way home when the thugs came up to him and asked to use his mobile device. When the victim took the gadget out of his pocket, one of the lowlifes snatched it away — while the other punched him in the head, police said. Both crooks then scrambled to parts unknown, per authorities.

Big bank

A crook held up a Third Avenue lending institution for almost \$17,000 on March 21, police said.

The teller told cops that the lowlife entered the bank at the corner of 71st Street at 10:25 am and passed a note under the screen.

“Don’t be a hero. Empty top and bottom drawers. I have a gun,” the message supposedly read.

The clerk complied, and the robber took the money and ran, cops stated.

— **Will Bredderman**

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint—Northside

Empty-handed

A gang of toughs tried and failed to rob a teen on Meeker Avenue on March 18 as he was leaving school, cops said.

The 16-year-old victim recalled that he was walking to the train from school and was at the corner of Union Avenue at 3:30 pm when six bullies ran to him from behind, surrounded him, and patted him down. One of them pointed something that looked like a knife, police reported.

The victim and a witness

“I have a knife, give me your cellphone,” one of the scoundrels supposedly said.

The victim scrambled towards the train without giving the toughs a thing, police said.

S-U-Free

An anti-social auto-phile stole a Porsche sport utility vehicle after an employee left it unlocked with the keys in it at a N. Sixth Street parking lot on March 20, cops said.

A company rep reported he left the 2012 Porsche Cayenne in the lot between Wythe and Kent avenues from 11 to 11:55 am. He said it was company policy to leave all vehicles unlocked with the keys in them at all times.

Ex-games

A teen stole his ex-girlfriend’s cellphone off of the coffee table in her Morgan Avenue home on March 18, cops reported.

The teenage girl told police that she was at her apartment between Withers Street and Maspeth Avenue at 3:30 pm when her ex-boyfriend grabbed her cellphone off the table without her permission and ran out of the apartment.

90TH PRECINCT

Southside—Bushwick

What a tool

Cops cuffed a guy who they say attacked the man who caught him trying to steal tools from his Flushing Avenue apartment on March 20 and tried to keep him from leaving.

Police said they came across three fellows fighting in front of a house between Broadway and Throop Avenue at 9:55 pm. The victim, who lived in the apartment, told officers he had caught the alleged burglar in his apartment trying to grab the goods. Police arrested the 46-year-old man and charged him with burglary.

Teamwork

A robbery victim and a witness helped to get a suspect arrested after he allegedly grabbed money out of the victim’s pocket on Graham Avenue on March 20.

The victim told police that he took money out of an automated teller machine between Debevoise Street and Broadway at 5 pm. As he stepped away from the machine and continued walking down the street, the alleged robber grabbed \$75 out of his pocket, the victim told police.

The victim and a witness

followed the suspect and the witness flagged down a cop who arrested the suspect and charged him with grand larceny.

Grab and go

A tall robber stole the cellphone out of the hands of a woman who was riding the G train at the Flushing Avenue station on March 20, according to police.

The 43-year-old victim said that a big galoot grabbed the phone out of her hand just as the train pulled into the station at the corner of Marcy Avenue and Wallabout Street at 6:50 pm.

The giant ran out of the train and out of the station and the woman could not stop him, she said.

Hole in one

A crafty burglar broke into a Flushing Avenue pizza shop on March 17 — by punching a hole in the wall, police said.

The owner of the pizzeria between Humboldt Street and Broadway told police that when he opened the store at 10:50 am he found the basement storm door broken and a hole kicked in the sheet rock on the side of the pizzeria. The burglar had stolen \$575 from the cash register and stole an iPad Mini from the front counter, according to a report.

Saw-gone-it

A man was arrested for allegedly stealing a cement saw from the tractor of a construction truck parked on Graham Avenue on March 17, police said.

A manager with the construction company reported that his construction truck and trailer were parked between Varet and Moore streets at 11:40 am when a thief jumped into the trailer, grabbed the saw, and ran off down the street.

Police arrested the 55-year-old man and slapped him with charges of grand larceny and resisting arrest.

Offline banking

A cretin stole \$10,000 out of a man’s bookcase in his Penn Street home on March 21, according to authorities.

The 64-year-old victim said he noticed his books had been moved in his home at the corner of Marcy Avenue at noon.

He told police he suspected the thief was his housekeeper, but there are no cameras in the apartment and he not could not prove who took the money, police stated.

— **Danielle Furfaro**

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an On-Premises Liquor License (#1275907) has been applied for by Apolo Restaurant II Corp., to sell liquor, wine & beer, under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, at 1477 Myrtle Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. for on-premises consumption. By: Apolo Restaurant II Corp. 1477 Myrtle Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11237

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County, on the 25th day of March, 2014, bearing Index Number N00322/2014, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in Room Number 007, grants me the right to assume the name of **ROMIE EVANDER P. MARCOS**. My present address is 8622 24th Avenue, Apt. 2-R, Brooklyn, New York, Kings County 11214; the date of my birth is December 24, 1993, the place of my birth is Brooklyn, New York; my present name is **ROMEO PAREJA MARCOS, Jr.**, and I had been also known as **ROMEO P. Marcos, Jr.** and as **ROMIE P. MARCOS**.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 03/25/2014, bearing Index Number NC-000317-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) **Alexander (Last) Lao**. My present name is (First) **Alexander (Last) Lao Pietri** AKA **Alexander Lao Pietri**. My present address is 105 Grand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11205-2982. My place of birth is San Juan, Puerto Rico. My date of birth is April 30, 1986.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 02/28/2014, bearing Index Number NC-000216-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) **Anthony (Last) Chalas**. My present name is (First) **Anthony (Last) Chalas-Santana** AKA **Anthony Chalas**. My present address is 263 Parkside Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11226-. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is October 22, 1982.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 03/25/2014, bearing Index Number NC-000324-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) **Eryk (Middle) Matteo (Last) Wdowiak**. My present name is (First) **Eric (Middle) Matthew (Last) Doviak** AKA **Eric M. Doviak**. My present address is 1608 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11230-. My place of birth is Teaneck, New Jersey. My date of birth is July 18, 1975.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 03/17/2014, bearing Index Number NC-000270-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) **Noa (Middle) McKenna (Last) Kroeber**. My present name is (First) **Noa (Middle) Starke (Last) Kroeber** (infant). My present address is 166 Meserole Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11222-. My place of birth is Manhattan, NY. My date of birth is December 13, 2013.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 03/19/2014, bearing Index Number NC-000291-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) **Farzana (Last) Amir**. My present name is (First) **Farzana (Last) Hossain** AKA **Hossain Farzana FKA Farzana Khanam**. My present address is 100 Caton Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11218-. My place of birth is Bangladesh. My date of birth is March 18, 1975.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 03/17/2014, bearing Index Number NC-000282-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) **Ayse (Middle) Busra (Last) Midilli**. My present name is (First) **Ayse (Middle) Busra (Last) Gider** (infant). My present address is 826 59 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220-3667. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is February 02, 2013.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 03/24/2014, bearing Index Number NC-000001-14/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) **Samuel (Middle) Edward (Last) Brodsky**. My present name is (First) **Samuel (Middle) Edward (Last) Ensig** (infant). My present address is 182 15th St, Brooklyn, NY 11215-. My place of birth is Manhattan, New York. My date of birth is January 05, 2013.

Notice is hereby given that an application for a Variance to permit the operation of an Auto Laundry at 2874 Consey Island Avenue, Brooklyn, New York contrary to use regulations has been filed with the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals ("BSA") by Phillips Nizer LLP on behalf of ZBest Auto Spa Inc. The BSA has scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, April 29, 2014 at 10:00am to review this application. Cal. No.: 214-12-BZ at Spector Hall, 22 Reade Street, Borough of Manhattan.



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